

¶ Two most vnnaturall and bloodie  
Murthers:

The one by Maister Cauerley, a Yorkshire  
Gentleman, practised vpon his wife, and com-  
mitted vppon his two Children, the  
thre and twentie of Aprill

1605.

The other, by Mistris Browne, and her seruant Peter, vpon her husband,  
who were executed in Lent last past at Bury in Suffolke.

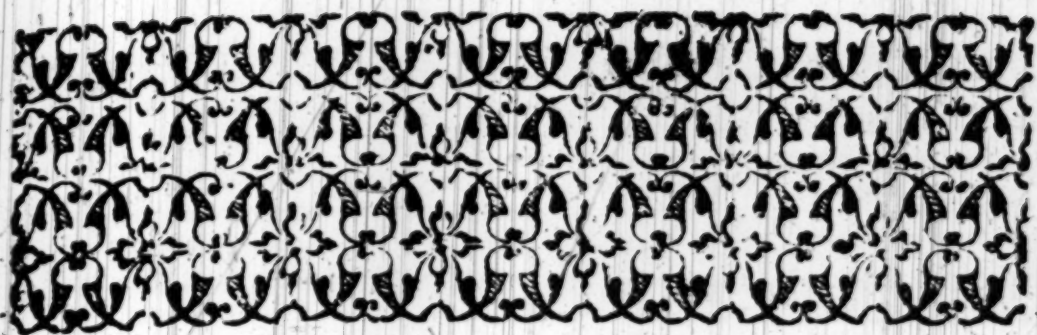
1605.



Printed at London by V. S. for Nathanael Butter dwelling in Parles  
churchyard neere Saint Austens gate. 1605.







I

**Maister Cauerleys vnnaturall and  
bloudie murther, practised vppon his  
wife, and committed vpon  
*his children.***



There hath happened of late within the Countie of Yorke, not farre from Wakefield, a murther so detestable, that were it not it deserves record for example sake, Humanitie could wish it rather vtterly forgot, then any Christian heart should tremble with the remembrance of it.

Within this county was bred a gentleman, one Th. Cauerly of Cauerly, a man whose parents were such, as left him seven or eight hundred pound a yeare, to enrich his hopes, cherish his content, and make him fortunate: His father dying befoze he had reacht the yeares of priuilege, during his nonage, he was Warde to a most noble & worthy gentleman in this land, in all which time his course of life did promise so much good, that

that there was a commendable gravity appeared even in his youth, he being of the hope, virtuous in his life, and worthy by his birth, was sought unto by many gallant Gentlemen, and desired that he would unite his fortune into their families, by matching himselfe to one and the chiefe of their daughters.

Among which number it happened, being once invited for such a purpose, (a welcome guest) to an ancient Gentleman of chere note in his Country, (hee came) where in short time was such an interchangeable affection, shot in by two paire of eyes, to one paire of heartes, that this Gentlemans best beloved daughter, was by private assurance made Maister Cauerleys best beloved wife: nor could it bee kept so close betweene the paire of lovers, (for love will discover it selfe in loving looks.) But it came to the fathers knowledge, who with a natural ioy, was contented with the contract; yet in regard Maister Cauerleys peeres could not discharge the charge his honourable gardian had over him: the father thought it meete, (though the lovers could haue wished it otherwaies,) to lengthen their desired haste, till time should finish a fit howre to solemnize their happy wedlocke. Maister Cauerley having spent some time there in decent recreation, much abroad, and more at home with his new Mistress; at last he bethought himselfe, that his long stay made him long looked for at London: And having published his intended departure, the father thought it convenient, though the virtuous Gentlewoman danced a Lott to depart upon his contracted lips. Maister Cauerley came to London, and whether concealing his late contract from his honorable gardian, or forgetting his private & publicke bowes, or both I know not, but Time, mother of alterations, had not scanned over many daies, but hee had made a new bargaine, knit a new



marriage knot, and was husband by all matrimonial rites, to a courteous Gentlewoman, and nere by marriage to that honourable Personage to whom he was Ward.

Rumor with his thousand tongues and ten thousand fete, was not long in trauel before hee had delivered this distasted message to his first Distresseres, who looking for a more loudly commendations, and hauing heard but part of that, such as truly it was, the winde of her sighes had so raised vp the tide of her teares, that shee clipped the report ere it could bee tolde out, into many peeces. And as she would still faine haue asked this question, (Is it so indeede) shee was faine to make vp her distracted syllables with the letters of her eyes. This Gentlewoman, Maister Cauerleys wife, (if bowes may make a wife) tooke with an inward consideration, so to heart this vnjust wrong, that exercising her bowes onely in continual sorrow, shee brought her selfe to a consumption; who so plaide the insulting tyrant ouer her vblemished beautie, that the ciuill contention dwelt in her face of white and redde, was turned to a death-like palenesse, and all her attires wherein the spirite of life mixed with blood doth runne, like giddy subiectes in the Empire of her bodie, greedie of inuocation, took such vngentle parte with this forraigne vsurper, that where health beere was her peaceable soueraigne, now distracted sickness and feeble weaknesse were her vtternely Conquerors. yet vnder this yoke of griefe, shee so patiently indured that, though he had great reason a foundation whereon he might haue build arguments to haue curst his proceedings. And where others would haue contradicted him both of reproach and reproofe agaynst him, shee onely married these letters together: I

intreate of God to grant both prosperous health and fruitfull wealth to him and his, though I am sicke for his sake.

But to Maister Cauerley, who having finished this wrong to this Gentlewoman, and begun too much distress to her that he married, (as too lone appeared:) for though the former conquered by the gentlenesse of her nature, forgave his fault; yet reuenge being alwaies in Gods hand, thus it fel.

This Gentleman had not liued many months with his wife, but he was so altered in disposition from that which he was, and so short from the perfection which he had, as a body dying is of a life flourishing: and where befoze his thoughts onely stued the relish of vertue, and her effects, his actions did now altogether practise the vnprofitable taste of vice, and her fruites. For though he were a man of so good reuener as befoze, hee continued his expence in such exceeding riot, that he was forced to mortgage his lands, run in great debts, entangle his friends by being bound for him, and in short time so weakened his estate, that hauing not wherewithal to carry that port which befoze he did, he grew into a discontent, which so swaid in him, hee would sit sullenly, walke melancholy, bethinking continually, and with steddye lookes nailed to the ground, seeme astonisht, that when his wife would come to desire the cause of his sadnesse, and intreate to be a willing partner in his sorrow: for,

*Consortium rerum omnium inter nos  
Facit amicitia.*

Hee would eyther sitte still without giuing her an answer, or rising vpp, depart from her with these wordes; A plague on thee, thou art the cause of my sadnesse. The Gentlewoman, which without question



tion this report is true of, neuer so much as in thoght  
 offended him, and hauing bene sundry times cursed  
 without cause, once came to him, and making hir tears  
 parlee with her words, she thus intreated him: sir, mas-  
 ter Cauerley, I beseech you by the mutuall league of  
 loue which should be betwixt vs, by the bowes we  
 made together, both befoze, and at our marriage, and  
 by that God that registers our thoughts, tell me what  
 I haue done, the remembrance of which should afflict  
 you, or what I may do that might content you: as you  
 desire the thre louely boyes you haue bene father vn-  
 to, should grow vp and make your name liue in your  
 country, acquaint me with your griefes, and what a  
 wife can shew to manifest her loue to her husband, shal  
 be perfected in me. Maister Cauerley string himselfe  
 with a stedy eie vpon her, at last deliuered this: I now  
 want money, and thou must help me.

Maister Cauerley (quoth she) though God and  
 your selfe know I am no cause of your want, yet what  
 I haue to supply you, either in iewels or rings, I pray  
 you take, and I beseech you, as you are a Gentleman,  
 and by the loue you should beare to your childzen, al-  
 though you care not for me, looke back a little into your  
 estate, and restraine this great floud of your expense be-  
 fore your house be utterly ouerthrowne. You know sir,  
 (quoth she) your land is morgaged already, your selfe  
 otherwise greatly in debt, some friends of yours that  
 are bound for you like to be vndone. But as she would  
 haue gone forward, he cut her off with these wordes:  
 Base strumpet (whom though I married I neuer loued)  
 shall my pleasure be constrained by your wil: if you and  
 your bastards be in want, either beg, or retire to your  
 friends, my humour shal haue the auncient scope. Thy  
 rings and iewels I wil sel, and as voluntarie spend  
 them, as when I was in the best of my estate: the good  
 Gen

Gentlewoman's eyes being drawne full of water with these wordes, made him no other replie but this: **Sir** your will be done. But hee fled on in this vehemencie of bloud. **I** protest by heauen **I** will euer hereafter lothe thee, and neuer l<sup>e</sup> with thee, til thou giue thy consent thy dowrie shall be solde, to maintaine my pleasure, and leaue thy selfe and children destitute of maintenance. **Sir** (answered she) in al this **I** will be a wife, what in all this the law will allow me to doe, you shall command. **W**oe thou dost it (quoth he,) for no longer then **I** am full of money shalt thou pertake from me a taste of kindnesse.

**M**istresse Caucley going forward with this intent to sell away her dowrie, was sent for vp to London by that honorable friend whose nurse she was, and whose ward he had bene, who hauing heard of her husband's prodigall course, at her comming vp, began to question her about her estate, and whether he bore himselfe as a husband should do in familiar loue to her. The Gentlewoman though she knew how desperate his estate was, and her tongue could too well haue tolde his unkindnesse, she answered both thus: for my husband's estate, **I** make no doubt but it is in the same height his father left it to him: but for our loue one to another, **I** am assured, and **I** praye God for it, wee live like Abraham and Sarah, he louing to me, **I** obedient to him.

**W**hosoener (answered this honourable friend) your wordes are an ornament a good wife should haue, and you seeke to shadow the blemishes his actions haue cast upon his life, let this suffice you, **I** know of his prodigal course, **I** know how his land is all, or the most part of it mortgaged, himselfe in debt to manie: yet censuring these infirmities to proceede of no other cause, but from the rash heats of youth, which will in time,



no doubt be suppressed by experience : and for that I be-  
 leue your words be true , and am glad to heare of his  
 kindnes toward you, I will take such order for him, as  
 he shall continue still master Cauerley, in the same de-  
 gre, or better than ere his ancestors were in Worke-  
 shire: and at your returne to certifie him withall, that  
 he hasten vp to Court : nor let the feare of his Credi-  
 tors abridge his comming vp , for I will protect him,  
 both from them , and also prouide some place in Court  
 for him, wherein he shall finde I am his honourable  
 kinsman.

The good gentlewoman was so stricke with ioy at  
 this comfortable promise , that she was scarce able to  
 speake out her duefull thanks. And thinking her hus-  
 band would be satisfied with this preferment, hoping  
 that kindnes would be contracted again betwixt them,  
 and assuring her selfe there would be now no neede to  
 make sale of her dowrie (for that was also a part of her  
 busines) hauing taken leaue of her honourable kins-  
 man, she returned toward Cauerley.

During this her absence, master Cauerley maintai-  
 ned his accustomed habite, and indeede grew from bad  
 to worse: for mischiefe is of that nature, that it can not  
 stand, but by strengthening of one euill with an o-  
 ther, and so multiply in it selfe vntil it come vnto the  
 highest, and then falles with his owne weight. So  
 Maister Cauerley being giuen to excesse rioting, as di-  
 cing, drinkeing, reuelling, and it is thought, &c. sed one  
 euil with another, and in such continuall vse, that his  
 body was not in temper without the exercise of sinne:  
 for who knowes not, *sine Cerere & Baccho friget Venus?*  
 so without money pleasure wil hardly be maintained.

And this Gentleman hauing now made wacke of  
 his estate, and finding himselfe not able to maintaine  
 his pleasure, when his desire was, as great as before,

(for pleasure being once delightfull vnto the memorie, is as hard to be resisted as inadnesse) first he fel into a hatred with his wife, and in this her absence to such a loathing of his children, that in what company soeuer hee had happened, he could not containe his rage, but would openly proclaime his wife was a strumpet, his children were bastards. And although they marriage was made by honourable personages, her selfe nobly descended, from the first houre hee embraced her, to that very minute hee didde loathe her: Some would mildly perswade him from this phrensie, others would courtously reprove him, saying, It was not fitte: And all, whose modestie thought it vnmete to meddle betwixt man and wife, knowing her vertuous life, didde vtterly condemne him.

But hee continued this publication in all places where he came, and at one among the number, there happened a Gentleman to be, who hauing knowne the discretenesse of his wife from her very cradle, and hearing him so wilde in his abuses, prepared himselfe confidently to correct him, and hauing begunne his speech of chastisement, the other not induring to be detected: both being soone inflamed, fel to quarrelous tearmes, and in such heate, that Maister Cauerley did not spare to say, That hee might wel be his wifes friend for aught that hee knew, nay there was great presumption for it, since he so easily should be stirred vp in his wifes excuse. The Gentleman not enduring to heare her reputation, but especially his owne to be touched, so answered Maister Cauerley, and agayne Maister Cauerley him, that they both agreed to purge themselves in the field, both mette, and after some thrusts chaunged betweene them, Maister Cauerley was hurt, yet would he not giue ouer, so that after he became at the Gentlemans mercie, but hee



he of that humane condition not to desire his life, nor so much blood as was, had he not beene urged, bade him rise, and left him with these words, Maister Cauerley, you are a Gentleman of an antient house, there hath beene much good expected from you, deceyue not mens hopes, you haue a vertuous wife, bee kinde vnto her, I forget my wrong, and continue your friend.

But Maister Cauerley vnsatisfied with this, his hart flew to his mouth as it would haue leapt out after him for reuenge, yet knowing he could get little by following him, but hurts, such as he had already prepared to turne his wrath another way. Then looking vpon his wounds, and seeing them blæde, said to himselfe Strumpet, thou art the cause that I blæde now, but I wil be the cause that thou shalt blæde hereafter. So taking his horse, rode presently home, where befoze his wounds were thoroughly cured, his wife was come from London, and the first greeting was giuen her by her husband, was, what? hast thou brought the money? Is the land sold? She answered, Sir I hope I haue made a iourney that shall redound both to your comfort and mine: so acquainting him with the precedencie, which was his promised preferment by her kinsman, and expecting a louing acceptance, the first thanks he gaue her was a spurn. And looking vpon her as if his eyes would haue shot fire into her face: haue you bin at London to make your complaint of me? you damnable Strumpet, quoth hee, that the greatnesse of your friends might ouerway th: weakenesse of my estate? and I that haue liued in that ranke of will which I haue doone, that freedom of pleasure should forsake it now, that I being a Cauerley of Cauerley steepe my thoughts so low to attend on the countenance of your aliance, to order my life by their direction, and neither doe nor vndoe any thing

thing but what they list, which if I refuse to doe, your complaints haue so wrought with them, and you haue so possessed them of my estate, they will inforce mee forsothe for your good, and the good of my children: was this your trick to saue your dowrie the which I sware you should sell? Was this your going to London?

The good Gentlewoman being almost blowne to death with this vehemencie of his wrath, fell at his feete, and desired him to heare her, when (poore soule) she was so full of griefe, she had not the power to speak, yet hauing eased the way with a few of sorowes drops, shee beganne to pleade this true excuse to him, (that like one had lost all his senses) had scarce patience to heare. Sir (said she) God knowes the words I speake haue no fashion of vnt ruth, my friends are fully possessed your land is mortgaged, they know to whom, & for what, but not by me I beseech you beleeue, and for anie difference betwixt your selfe and me, which I doubt would offend more, then the mortgaging of your land, I protest yet ther is no occasion of suspect. If you think I haue published any thing to him with desire to keepe the sale of my dowrie from you, either for mine owne good, or my childrens, though it fits I should haue a motherly care of them (you being my husband) passe it away how you please, spend it how you will, so I may enioy but welcome looks, and kinde words from you: and when all which you call yours, is gone, ere you or yours shall want, I wil worke for your maintenance, neither of which extremities sir neede, if you please, if you will but accept preferment in Englands Court, being offred you gratis, which many men would purchase with cost, and cannot compasse it.

At which words, though thus mildly vttered, & on her humble knees, he was so without cause enraged, that  
had



had not one of his men come vp in the instant. and told him there was a Gentleman from one of the Uniuersities staid to speake with him, he had offered her present violence.

Maister Cauerley went downe to talke with this Gentleman, leauing his wife stuffed with græse vp to the eye-lids : and shee good soule hauing eased her heart with a long fetcht sigh or two, laid her downe vpon her bed, where in her carefull slumbers we will leaue her, and attend the conference betweene Maister Cauerley and this Gentleman.

Maister Cauerley had a second brother, who at this present was of good standing in the Uniuersitie, who vpon some extremitie Maister Cauerley was in, soz so he would pleade himselfe to be to his friends, when he would haue them bound for him, had passed his bond with his brother for a thousand pound : this bond was by Maister Cauerley forsaited: and this young Gentleman being reputed of staid government, the execution was serued vpon him, and hee at this instant prisoner for his brothers debt.

About this businesse came this Gentleman to Maister Cauerley, who being master of the Colledge where in his brother had his instruction : and hauing euer noted his forward wil to the exercise of vertue, in pittie of his estate, being moued thereunto by the young student, came purposely thither, who without long circumstance, told Maister Cauerley, that the cause of his comming, was to stir vp his conscience to haue regard of his brother, soz he heard he was carelesse, and indeed dealt so sharpely and forcibly, in laying open to him what scandall the world would throw vpon him, what iudgement by God should fall vpon him, for suffering his brother to spend the gloze of his youth, which is the time young men of hope should seeke for preferment

in prison by his meanes , and did so harrow bp his soule with his inuincible arguments , that in that minute he made him looke backe into the erro2 of his life, which scarce euer in his life hee had done befoze this instant.

The Gentleman hauing spoke his minde. asked him what he meant to doe with his brother , for hee now waited his answer : Maister Cauerley made him this milde reply; sir I thanke you, both for your paines and good instructions to me in my brothers behalfe , and I must confesse I haue done him much wrong: so calling for a cup of beere, dranke to him, and bade him welcom: now sir, quoth Maister Cauerley , if you please but to walke downe and see the grounds about my house, one of my men shal goe along with you , at your returne I wil giue so sufficient answer , that my brother by you shal be satisfied, and he a prisoner but few howres The Gentleman thanked him, and told him in performing that naturall office, he should both glozifie God, satisfie the world, and he himselfe account his paines profitable.

This stranger is gone to walke with one of Maister Cauerleys men to ouer-biew his ground, and Maister Cauerley retires himselfe into a gallery , where being alone, he presently fell into a deepe consideration of his state, how his prodigall course of life, had wronged his brother , abused his wife , and vndone his children. When was presented befoze the eyes of his imagination, the wealth his father left him, and the misery hee should leaue his children in : When hee saw what an vnnaturall part it was , his brother to lie in prison for his debt, and he not able to deliuer him : When he saw that his wife being nobly descended , vnlesse her owne friends tooke pittie vpon her , should with his children be driuen to beg remorse of the world , which is composed



posed all of flint: Then sawe hee the extirpation of his family, the ruine of his antient house, which hundreds of yeres together had bin Gentlemen of the best reputation in Wiltshire, and every one of these out of their severall objects, did create a severall distraction in him: sometimes he would teare his haire, by and by the teares would flush into his eyes, strait breake out into this exclamation: O, I am the most wretched man that ever mother received the seede of, O would I had bene slaine in my wombe, and that my mother hadde bene my sepulchre: I have begot my children to eat their bread in bitterness, made a wife to be nothing but lamentation, and a brother to die in care. And as hee was thus tormented in the remembrance of his owne folly, his eldest son being a childe of foure yeres olde, came into the gallery, to scourge his toppe, and seeing his father stand in a study, looked prettily vpp to him saying, Howe doe you father? which lovely looke, and gentle question of the childe raised againe the remembrance of the distresse that hee should leaue him in. And as the Sea, being hurled into hideous billowes, by the fury of the winde, hideth both heaven and earth from the eye of man: So he being overwhelmed by the violence of his passion, all naturall love was forgot in his remembrance, caught his childe vpp by the necke, and striking at him with his dagger, the childe lent him such a looke, would have driven a hand seaven yeres prentice vnto murder to an ague: (yet he) O would it had neuer bene done, it might neuer have bene told, though his arme seemd twice to remember him of the monstrosities of the fact, he strook the lovely infant into the head, & holding the bleeding childe at his armes length, that the blood might not sprinkle his cloths, which had stained his hart & honor, hee so carried it into a nere Chamber, where his wife lay

lay asleepe vpon a bed, and the maide was dressing an  
 other childe by the fire: (heere is to be noted, his thide  
 was at narse abroad) but the woman seeing him  
 come in in that cruell sorte, his childe in one hand,  
 his reeking dagger in the other, the childe bleeding,  
 hee staring, started from the fire, and with the childe  
 in her armes, cried out; but hee letting go the boy he  
 had wounded, caught violently the other out of her  
 armes, and this chamber doore being at the top of a  
 high paire of staires carried her forth by main strength,  
 and threw the poore woman downe to the bottome,  
 who in tender pity by president of the one, would haue  
 preserved the other: the childe that was wounded, was  
 all this while crying in the chamber, and with his wo-  
 ful noise, waked as wofull a mother, who seeing one  
 childe bleeding, the other lie on the ground, (for he had  
 laid the younger downe, (while he stroue to throw the  
 maid downe staires) she caught by the youngest, and  
 going to take the elder which was going toward the  
 doore; her husband coming backe, met her, and came  
 to struggle with her for the childe which she sought to  
 preserve with words, teares, and all what a mother  
 could do from so tragicall an end; and when he saw he  
 could not get it from her, he most remorselesse stabbed  
 at it some three or foure times, all which she saued the  
 childe from, by taking it on her selfe; and hauing a paire  
 of whale-bone bodices on, it pleased God his dagger  
 so glanced on them, that she had yet but one wound in  
 the shoulder: but hee more cruell by this resistance,  
 caught fast holde vpon the childe, and in the mothers  
 armes stabbd it to the heart: and after giuing his wife  
 two or three mortall wounds, she fel backward, and  
 the child dead at her fete. The maid that was throwne  
 downe the staires by him, with the greatnesse of the  
 fall, the staires being high, lay for dead at the bottome:  
 the



the noise of this had brought the servants, no<sup>r</sup> knowing of that which was more tyrannous, to help the maide, thinking she had fell by mischance, and did their best to comfort her beneath, while the father and the mother were striding, one to preserve the infant, the other to kill it. The childe which was first wounded, sought to get to the doore, and having recovered the top of the staires, (by expence of blood and the greatnesse of the wound) having no body to comfort, it fell also downe staires, that the armes of the servants helping the maide at the staire foote, were faine to let her goe to receive him: some caught by the dead infant, some helped at the maide, all amazed at this tragicke alteration, knewe not what to thinke, yet one of the men more hardie then the rest, ranne by and met his maister in the chamber, where he saw his M<sup>rs</sup> stresse lie on the ground, and her dead childe at her feet, and saying to him; Oh sir, what have you done? That which I repent not knowe answered hee: and having still his dagger in his hand, came to stab at him: But the fellow seeking to save himselfe, as also to attack his Maister, they both fell to strugling. Maister Cauerley which was knowite befoze a man of weake constitution, was in the strife too hard for the fellowe, who was reputed of a very able body: and in the wrestling together, did so teare him with the rowels of his spurres, both on the face and legges, that there he left him, not being able to followe him. Maister Cauerley went downe staires, and presently toke toward the stable: by the way hee met the Gentleman who befoze was walking to viewe his groundes, who wondring to see him in such a heate, asked what ayle you Sir: he answered no great matter: but sir, I will resolve you within, where I have taken order for my brothers burthens. So the Gentleman walked in, and M<sup>rs</sup> Cauerley hasted to the stable, where finding a Coling

C

rears

readie sadled, backt him and fled away presently. The gentleman comming in, was entertained with out-cries and shriekes, the mother for the children, (soz by this time shee was almost recovered.) The men servants at this doleful milchance, and all lamenting a father should bee so unnaturall. The Gentleman doubting that, which was, of Maister Cauerleys escape, left all the house making elegies of sorowe, and betooke himselfe to his pursuit, and hauing forthwith raised the Towne, and heard which way hee rode, followed him with the swiftest haste. Maister Cauerley againe being well hoist, spurd as fast as they, not earnest to escape, but thirstie after moze blood: soz hauing an infant of halfe a yeare old at nurse some twelue mile off, he prickt by his preposterous fate, had a desire to rote out all his owne generation: and onely intending to murther it, was carelesse what became of himselfe: hee rode hard for an act of sinne, and they pursued for the execution of iustice. But God that ordereth the life of a Wren, hath then a care of his reasonable creatures. And though Caine was suffered to kill his brother Abel, God bound him not to destroy himself. So for Maister Cauerley, though God permitted the Sunne to blush at his unnaturall acts, yet he suffered him not escape without his reuenge: soz when he was at the townes ende, within a bow-shote where his childe suckt, that hee came to murther.

And his hart had made sharp the knife to cut his own infants throte, (O God how iust thou art) his horse that flew with him from his former tragedies, as appointed by God to tie him from any moze guilt, and to preserve the infants life, in a plaine ground, where there was scarce a pibble to resist his hast, the horse fell down and M. Cauerley vnder him; the horse got vp, & breaking from the hold his Maister had to stay him, ranne violently toward



ward the Towne, leaving maister Cauerley not able to stirre from thence, where he was sone overtaken by the pursuit: and indeede ceazde on by those, did both lament his fall, and pittie his folly. From thence he was carryed to a worshipfull Gentlemans, one Sir John Sauill, who hauing heard the tempest of this cuill, and knowing from what ancessors hee was descended, did bewaile his fate, yet being in the place of iustice, hee was inforced to aske him the cause that hadde made him so monstrous: He being like a scrumpet, made impudent by her continuance in sinne, made this answer; I haue done that Sir I reioyce at, and repent this, that I had not killed the other; I had brought them to beggery, and am resolued I could not haue pleased God better, then by freeing them from it. Wh Sir answered that worshipfull knight, you haue done so much, that when you shall your selfe but thinke vpon the terroz of death, the remembrance of this will make you wish you had neuer bene bozne. But his heart being for that instant hardened, was from thence committed to one Maister Keys house, a Gaile but lately built by in Wakefield, for at this time the infection of the Plague was violent in Bozke.

The way to Wakefield from Sir Iohn Sauills, lay direct by Maister Cauerleys house; against which when he came, he intreated of the multitude that were his conduct, hee might speake with his wife befoze hee came to prison, who he heard was alieue, though in great danger: that libertie was granted him, the distressed Gentle woman when shee saw him, forgot both her owne wounds, and the death of her two children and did as louingly kisse him and tenderly imbrace him as he had neuer done her wrong: which strange kindnes so strook to his heart, remembzing the misery hee had heaped on her, that imbracing one another there was so pittifull lamentation betwene them, that had flint had eare s,

It would haue melted into water. And could either words  
or teares haue perswaded his keepers to haue left him in  
her armes. (She, M<sup>rs</sup> Stres Cauerley, befoze the blood was  
washed off from her cloathes, which he pierced out of her  
and her infants bodyes,) gaue occasion, would haue alte-  
red them. But here they were diuorced, she vnable to  
rise to follow him, and he enforced to leaue her: and by  
the way he should passe from his house the graue cham-  
ber of his ancestors, which he neuer should see againe,  
Then on the threshold lay his two children to take their  
farewell with b'eeding tongues, which when he beheld  
his eyes were scarce able to beare vp their couers, nor  
was he distracted with the sight, but all like a pillar of salt,  
and the remembrance of their lively shape, reflected such  
a natural heate vpon him, that he was melted into wa-  
ter, and had not power to take any farewell of them, but  
onely in teares.

He was not long befoze he came to Key's house: hee  
was uot long there, but the memozie of his children sat  
in his eyes, so that soz the one he repented all the day, and  
soz the other lamented all the night: nor can the penne  
of the diuine Poet expresse halfe the grieve in words,  
that he conceiues in heart. For whereas befoze hee tolde  
of John Saull, he was glad hee had ridde the worlde of  
beggars, hee now imployes his houres in these  
words; I would I had those beggars, either  
I to brgge with them, or they to  
alke heauens almes  
for mee.

¶ I I I I I.





## The cruell murther of *Maister Browne in Suffolke.*



Within the Countie of Suffolke, neare Castbridge, at a place called Lawson albie, dwelt an antiēt Gentleman. one Maister Browne, who of late had married a rich widdow, one Misters Gardiner. This Maister Browne had onely one daughter, which though she was his base childe, he brought her up in house with him, and was now growne to womans estate. He had also a servant called Peter Golding a fellow onely fortunate in his Masters love: yet in his service he demeaned himselfe so dutifully, & that in trust was imposed on him, so carefully, that his Maister helde him both a nurse to his age and also the principall guide whereby he governed his ordinarie affaires, both at home and abroad. Upon this settled affection his Maister had of him, which Peter quicke'y perceiving, began to thinke thus with himselfe: that here were an antiēt couple, his Maister and Mistrisse, of exceeding wealth, no child but o' betwixt them, and by the course of nature, their yeares tolde him evidently, they were not farre from their graves, which being so, quoth he to himselfe, how should I now, being a man borne to no other fortune but service, and service is but a poore heritage, being already

alreadie got into my Maisters loue , so beare my selfe to haue all his lande. Out of this consideration Peter sawe no present hope , howe to rayse himselfe to fise or sixe hundred poundes a yeare, which his maister was Lord of, but onely by growing into league with his maisters onely daughter, thinking with himselfe shee being his onely childe, though as wee call it a by blow, yet behauing her selfe dutifully, and vertuously as the young Gentlewoman did on her part, and hee on the other part humoring him, and satisfying the testie affection which olde men are subiect vnto with content, as hee was well resolued hee coulde, hee perceiued certainly by marrying with her, hee should be not onely his maisters sonne, but also his Maisters heire.

Whilst Peter intended to strike this stroke for his maisters land, Maister Browne about that time was studying howe to gratifie Peters diligence and loue, and being troubled with the olde mans disease to take a House for a Mountaine, he confidently perswaded himselfe that Peter in his seruice shewed himselfe moze like a sonne then a seruant; that wiues loue, daughters loue, nay the diligence of all the whole householde beside, made vp together, were nothing to that great care hee confessed to himselfe, Peter had of him, and hauing no sonne, he would adopt that comfort in him. And honest Peter should be the man on whom he woulde set this rest, that hee should no longer weare the seruile name of a seruant, but by marrying of his onely daughter, bee aduanced to the title of a sonne.

Whilist maister Browne was running this chase for Peters preferment, it was Peters chance to stepp iust in his way, and the inuention being fresh in the olde mans memorie, hee presently tolde his minde out  
to



to Peter. It appeares befoze Peter needed not much  
 twining, and in brieft, maister Browne with his owne  
 handes contracted his onely daughter to Peter, and as-  
 signed out a portion of lande to him, which he should en-  
 joye for a day, whilst he himselfe lived, nay promised him  
 upon his some-like kindnesse which hee made no doubt  
 of, after his death the inheritance of all he had. Thus was  
 the filie brought into Peters hand by his maister which  
 he himselfe was setting the net for.

Peter relying upon this contract, and his maisters  
 promise, made no great haste of the marriage, but con-  
 tinued carefull in his businesse, this Gentlewoman  
 to whome Peter was contracted (as appeares)  
 though her father could commaunde her tongue, he could  
 not commaunde her heart, but in the absence of Peter  
 who was come by to London to the Terme, about  
 some suites his maister had there. being glad of the op-  
 portunitie, married her selfe to a Gentleman, and neigh-  
 bour to her father, one maister Wentworth, a man of good  
 reuenue, some thinke with maister Brownes consent, be-  
 cause hee was welthy: howsoever the same lande was  
 marked out for Peter, hee gaue maister Wentworth in  
 marriage with his daughter.

Peter returning from London, and seeing this un-  
 expected alteration, made his griefe manifest, (for with-  
 out question, hee by this time did intirely loue the  
 Gentlewoman,) and so published his discontent, that  
 hee should not onely lose the lande hee might proper-  
 ly call his, but chiefly his wife. that it appeared to his  
 maister.

Maister Browne, being a man timorous, (for it is  
 saide of him, that when he was walking alone he would  
 talke to himselfe, and did euer feare he should be mur-  
 dered.) To stop all furie, reuenge might studie for such a  
 wrong, called Peter to him, perswaded him to patience,

told him hee would still continue his good maister, nay would better any promise he had made vnto him, and as testimonie thereof assured him in present possession thirtie pounds a yeare at a place called Dunnage. Peter thanked his maister, seemed satisfied: and againe, his maister thought all had bene well: but his maister being gone, hee remembered to himselfe what his owne heart best knew, that he loued the daughter, which loue now appeared was lost hee remembered she was contracted to him, yet another had married her, he remembered the land which was assigned as her portion to him, another now tilled, and reapt the fruit on: and all these remembrances maister, you that should haue bene my father, tell me quoth he, that I haue wrong, and you are guiltie of it, which I being thoroughly perswaded of in my hart, thirtie pounds a yeare shall not satisfie him that should haue bene heire of fve hundred, nor faire wordes tempt me from reuenge, which haue bene wronged in my wife, yet I wil seeme calme, shew diligence, and creep againe into your loue, but as a serpent in your belome, that when I seeme most kind, I will be most subtle, and my reuenge most sodaine.

This aforesaid Gentleman maister Browne, and that widow which he had married liued in great inquietnesse together, for two kisse olde folkes haue as little agreements when they meeke, as two windees, which Peter taking hold on, wrought himselfe into his mistresse fauour, yet not so farre, but he kept in as great as before with his maister. And although this man and wife liued together like diuided householdes, shee with her seruants, he with his, she her diet by her selfe, he the like by his, yet Peter carried himselfe so euen towards both parties, that hee had the loue of both: and where their seuerall seruants could not agræe one with another, but would expresse their heart-burnings, all yet were



were at league with him. That though the Countrey was a general talke of his commendations, how well hee carryed himselfe, and his maisters loue now appeared moze grounded towarde him then before: his outwardly the like to him; though inwardly otherwise.

Peter liuing thus (as it was thought contented) hauing the thirtie poundes a yeare his maister gaue him, beside the benefite of his seruice. On a day as mistresse Browne, Peter, and a kinsman of hers, one Brian Smith, were in the Parlour together, they set to conference of the age of man, and the vncertaintie of mans life, how long this olde man liues, and howe soon this young man dyes, how this man growes rich by nothing, another is borne wealthy, and dies a begger. Vpon which familiar talke, Smith tooke occasion to say to him: Peter, you are in the happy estate of those, who from nothing but your endeavour are made rich. Whosoever sir I am, answered Peter, I thanke my maister, I would my estate (be it spoken without ambition) maister Smith, were equall with yours: With mine, quoth Smith, why my certaintie is nothing, if mine Aunt should not out liue my Uncle, when you already are estates into thirtie poundes a yeare, beside I knowe you are not without a good stocke of money, which you haue thriftily purchased by your seruice: ch, but answered Peter, should my maister die, (as all creatures liues are in Gods hands) before your aunt, what were your estate then: why quoth M. Smith, be it spoken I protest (free from desire of either of their beathes) should it happe so, if there be a blisse to be endowd with earthly possessions, I were happy. You say well, quoth Peter, & if you please wec will haue a wager, what wil you giue me to pay ten to, one

If my Maister die not before, or by this day twelue month: I quoth Maister Smith, such an assumption were unreasonable and vndercent. What a childe are you said Mistris Browne, is it vndercent to win money? your Uncle is likely to liue, and if you will not, I will.

Smith answered, if you say so Aunt though I neither desire his death, nor Peters money, yet to satysfie your demand, I will venture ten shillings. Peter presently answered, and before my Mistris heere, I will make it ten pound, if it proue not so. The ten shillings was giuen by Smith, receiued by Peter: and on the same condition Peter scaled Maister Smith a bond, and Mistris Browne was the witness.

The time was soone slipt ouer: yet some two dayes before the day was expired Mistris Browne and Peter were in the same parlour alone, where this bond was sealed, where she straight tooke occasion to say to Peter, O Peter, your tenne shillings will be dearely bought, for your maister is in health. But Peter answered, Mistris the day is not yet come, & you knowe death can performe his act vpon a mans life, as soone in a minute as in a month.

For though before this time he had attempted many wayes to murder him, yet periozmance thereof was thus long by Gods prouidence preuented: but at this time the diuel had possessed him, that now was the time to finish his reuenge, and saue the payment of his bond, which his couetous disposition soone harkened vnto and also perswaded him, that it was so cunningly contriued, that the whole country knowing his maisters loue to him & his as great to his maister, the act being done, & the body found, he of all men should be least suspected: and indeed, had not God dwelt in heauen, & looked downe vpon the crueltie of the fact, who  
neuer



never suffers murder to be unreuenged, it was filly conueyed, and so closely acted, that without a diuine inspiration it had neuer bene reuealed, nor disco- uered.

Neare to maister Brownes was a coppice or grove of his, where Peter knewe he euerie day at an houre used to walke. Peter that day was to ride forth a towne to receiue money, yet befoze hee rode forth, in this Coppice hee had cut downe three Ashen stakes, and laide them readie for this his tragicall purpose, hee dispatched his businesse, received the money and was readie in the Coppice at his maisters comming: and standeth close whilst his maister passed by him, with one of those stakes behind him, knockt him on the head, and there left him, taking his horse which he had tied readie for him, and rode home, and made his owne tongue the first demander for his maister, told his mistresse hee had brought the thirtie poundes hee sent him to Dunnage for. she answered him, he was gone to walke, but none could tell certainly whither. This discourse was not long, but some Countrey people going that way about their labouring businesse, found the dead, and some brought the tragical newes to the house of the death of him. None was moze ready then Peter to inquire after the murderer, nor none seemed halfe so sorrowfull at this disaster as Peter. Search was made, many whisperings, severall coniectures, but Peter of all men was least suspected.

Neare to the place was beneficed a worthy diuine called maister Morgan, who with the rest of the country, wondering that such a murder should be done, a gentlemanaine so neare his house, nor no tidings of the murderer, came to Peter in the self same opinion the

country held of him, that he loved his maister, and his maister him; and minding to make him a partie with him, that their two inuentions might studie how to discover the murtherer, broke with him thus: Peter, thou of all men diddest loue thy maister, and thy maister of all men did loue thee best: here he is come to his vntimely ende, thou art cut off from thy best friend, hast lost a maister, nay, rather a father then a Maister; my selfe haue hadde some taste of his loue, for which I protest I will ingage my bowels in prayers to heauen, and practise on earth, to bring out this deede darker then night, that Justice may right her selfe on so inhumane a wrong: where if I will doe this Peter for him, whose bountie to me is as the least atomie compared with thine, me thinkes thou shouldest search for straines of miracle, aboue the height of imagination, ere thy maisters blood, so good an old mans blood, so good a life, should be tane away by the hand of a murtherer, and not be reuenged. Peter seemed so moued, and stood so full of sorrowfull teares with this, that had he bene accused for the fact, any man would haue sworne he had bene no murtherer. At last these words broke out; O Maister Morgan, my Maister was to me as is the Sunne to man, or raine to parched sommer, the life of what I am, & the giuer of what I haue, were my thoughts so penetrable to pierce into a meanes, my Maister Abels blood: (at that he paused,) and wept againe, should not: O should not be shed by a murtherers hand, and yet the murtherer liue: his words made the good diuine ready to weepe too. Yet quoth he, Peter, I new see thou art that true man, men thinke thee to be, and thou didst loue thy maister as the soule loues the body, whilst the body loues the soule. Telle two together by the helpe  
of



of God, & God will help vs to find out murtherers, will know who killed him. When tell me Peter quoth he, thou knowest who of his tenants were at oddes with him, I am to preach at his funeral, invite them all thither, at which sermon, if the Caine be there, I hope to utter such heavenly sentences, shall make his eyes stare, & his heart steale his blood out of his treacherous face. In breefe, this was done, a heavenly sermon he made to terrifie murtherers: & Peter sitting among the rest, though all wept, yet there appeared no such signe of guilt in any as in him, for he sate like one had layne six daies in a grave, no construction could be made from his words but frenzie, nor from his actions but distraction. The Preacher perceiving his alteration, would needs lie with him that night; but ere the morning he forced his own tongue by the terror which he pronounced, was in Gods iudgement, to reveale the treason his hand did, which no heart did suspect.

Peter was apprehended, and so listred by the gravitie of Justice, that his Distresse, Maister Brownes wife, was found a partie therein, the Sixes comming on, they were both arraigned, both found guiltie by a credible Jury, and from the utterance of a grave and honourable Judge, receiued their severall sentences, the one to bee dralvne on a hurdle to the place of execution, there to be hanged til he were dead, and after, his body to consume hanging in chaines: the other to be burnt to ashes: both which were executed in Lent last. But the morning befoze Peters execution, th is M. Morgan, happy by the revealing of this murther, where befoze he had terrified him with the iudgemēt of God, after so wrought for him, (that a thing seldom or never seen in Englaō,) he procured he might preach to him a sermon of Gods mercy, befoze his execution,

In the same Church where the terror of Gods power,  
 from his tongue, had made him reveale this mon-  
 strous fact, and there did he comfort his soule with the  
 toyes of heaven that repenting his treacherous deed,  
 he rather desired death then life, and so was exe-  
 cuted, after hung in chaines, and the flake  
 wherewith he killed his Sister, han-  
 ged at his backe.

FINIS.





